

# SCBIZ

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**Total number of local employees:** 65

**Top local executive:** Legrand Richardson Jr. / Michael F. Richardson

**Product or service:** Electrical Contracting Services

**Year founded locally:** 1969

**Company bio:** Atlantic Electric Company was founded in 1969 by Legrand and Nell Richardson as one of first major open (merit) shop electrical contractors in the Charleston Area. The business continued to grow rapidly in the 70's and by 1980 Atlantic Electric was one of the largest electric contractors in the state. Legrand and Nell sold Atlantic Electric to their three youngest children (Lee, Lodema, and Mike) in 1986. After selling to Building One Services Corporation in 1999 the Richardson Family purchased it back in 2003 and has grown to become one of the premier electrical contractors in South Carolina with almost 200 employees. Recently, the company purchased the Greenville operations of Hayes & Lunsford Electric, Inc. paving the way to further expansion in the Upstate.

**What are the top attributes you seek when hiring employees? Are you planning to increase head count in the coming year?** The best employees are the ones who take the initiative to get things done without having to be micromanaged. You give them the company objectives and the resources to do the job, and they get it done. We are trying to increase head count in the coming year, but we are constrained by the tight labor market. Our headcount will go up, just not as much as we would like.

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**2018 Roaring Twenties**  
*Fastest Growing Large Company*

*North Charleston*  
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